

er according to the very best of judgment. It is a large amount? Yes, seventy-five thousand dollars by the Trustee-in-Trust in be- of the Church, beside a further ent paid by the administrators. would be just a dollar apiece 75,000 people. It is quite a sum; but then, did you ever of people giving a bone to a And after you had done so, did not think you had lost a, did you? We thought it bet- take that course than to be ed up any longer with such mis- doings; and we agreed to do And I would like to know her you approve of this act or You who do, please signify it by ing up your right hands. [A t of hands was raised; and a imous vote declared.] Well, some have asked what we going to do with these com- ing heirs. I think we will have al with them according to the of the Church. Are you going ing their case before the confer- ? No, I think not; there are the er officers in the Church to at- to such things, and we say to go, and do your duty. We very sorry that they should have ed themselves in that position; we are very sorry that a great y other people should, and we very sorry that a great many of e evils referred to should exist in el. But they do; and what shall to about it? Go to work and use the inside of the platter, and we can go before our God in faith, and stand approved of , and rejoice in the fulness of blessings of the gospel of peace. here are some other things I d like to touch upon, but as the e has already expired, and as e will be a priesthood meeting ight in this tabernacle, to which young and the old of both sexes invited, I will defer speaking her until then.

Correspondence.

AUCKLAND BRANCH,
New Zealand.

For Deseret News:

Having been requested by the sident of the Mission to commu- ate with you respecting affairs in s far-off branch of the Church, I ly myself to the task as far as I ble. Altogether we in this nch number some 60 souls, com- ed as follows: men 15, women 11, children 34; the adults striving d after the things of the king- in; so hard that sometimes our zeal runs our discretion, and we are of- reminded that we are scarcely re than over the threshold of the r, and little more than nominally uainted with the first principles ur newly embraced religion. In- ed, now that we are inside the dding not made with hands, were ptop and ponder over the ground- rk "Faith," the first of these first at principles, we should have ening to our view such an amaz- picture for study that each item ould seem to furnish enough mat- for a life experience of mortal ration; but so eager are many as to push headlong to the further d of the gallery of light into hich we have been introduced and hich are pendant so many of the eat works of art of the master nd of the Great Eternal Father, at we are prone to forget to suffi- ntly examine and impress upon r minds the various beauties of e first gem which presents itself our view. The habit of taking ings for granted because of their parent simplicity is a bad one, as e light we get from the examina- on of those things which at first ight appear to be easily un- rstood, is often absolutely neces- ry to enable us to comprehend the ore subtle combinations of advanc- truths. So have I found it in my perience within this Church and ould earnestly counsel all young ints to learn first to speak and each the truths contained in the rst four great principles of the urch before thinking of attempt- g to teach and preach of the higher der of truths which can be intel- ible only to faithful and steadfast ints; in short commence with the phabet or milk of the word and gradually develop the taste both in ourselves and others for the strong heat of the gospel pertaining to our eternal exaltation, everything in its e order. Do this and avoid many n untoward experience; but pro- eed inversely and prepare to meet a spirit of contention, argumentation

and the thousand evil influences that follow in their train. As for myself and my brethren here, I pray that the true spirit of our callings may rest down upon us, that as we older grow in our membership, we may receive more wisdom, so that when we teach, the knowledge from whence we draw our thoughts may be of such a stable character, as to convince the hearer of the truth that is in us, and that our lives may be a living embodiment of that truth. Our brother Elder George Batt has labored during a long and faithful mission in these islands, traveling hither and thither under varying and often very adverse circumstan- ces to preach the gospel and warn the people, and has exercised super- vision over the various branches with a wisdom such as has led us to look upon him with love and re- spect. My experience here has led me to see that it is no light task to hold together in unison the conflict- ing elements that are gathered into this church by the gospel net; it is a duty requiring gentle, steady firm- ness and great forbearance until the last shred of the wretched garment of sectarianism is ultimately thrown away. The weeding out of preju- dice and sectarian ideas is as delicate an operation and as life giving in its effects as the re- moval of a cancer which would otherwise sap the very life of the afflicted victim.

Auckland is a lovely place and I cannot doubt but by patient labors in removing preconceived ideas in the minds of the people re- lative to "Mormonism" so-called, many honest inquirers will yet sepa- rate themselves from Babylonish captivity.

I am very glad to notify the arriv- al of Elders Bromley, Groesbeck and Ferris as missionaries from Utah, to labor amongst us; it was a most pleasing surprise, and we trust the result may be the adding of very many souls to the Church. These Elders, after having been presented and sustained in their various call- ings, are now located as follows: El- der Bromley, President of Mission at Auckland, to labor in city, sub- ubs and surrounding districts; El- der Groesbeck at Christchurch to labor in that city and surroundings, and Elder Ferris similarly situated at Napier. All of them are districts very large in extent with the popu-

lation much scattered. At present the following meetings are held in the Auckland branch: on Sunday at the Masonic Hall, Newton; sacra- ment service at 10.30; Sunday School at 2.30, and preaching the gospel at 6.30. We have also testimony meetings twice weekly, to accom- modate the saints who live at long distances from each other. Besides this there have been many preach- ings of the Gospel in the adjacent villages on Sunday afternoons. The meetings generally have not been so fully attended as they might have been, but when the saints are thor- oughly imbued with the responsi- bilities which rest upon them and learn to sink self in the pushing forth of the latter-day work like one man, so that we may have more united power to remove some of the prejudices of the outside public, then we may expect a more thorough ap- preciation of the blessings and ordi- nances proceeding from the preach- ing and acceptance of the gospel. I may also mention that we have in- augurated a Female Relief Society, who have, although in their infan- cy, begun to make themselves felt as a power to do good. Sister Lucey holds the office of president and Sis- ters Cox and Day as first and second counselors, and with the Lord's help they will prove a great blessing to all that come within the range of their influence. Several of the Saints have their thoughts turned Zionwards and are looking forward to an early opportunity of leaving these shores for the valleys in the tops of the mountains, and I sin- cerely trust that the Eternal Father will so far bless me as to open the way for myself and family to be numbered among the first of those who will start for "home."

I will now wish you good bye for the present, and with thankfulness in my heart that I can now write myself Latter-day Saint.

I subscribe myself your affection- ate brother in the Church of Jesus Christ.

WILLIAM WALTER DAY,
President of the Auckland Branch,
New Zealand.

MANASSA, Col.,
March 2d, 1881.

Editor Deseret News:

Our people here are moving along quietly, planing and preparing for

the future, as best they can. An agreement has been entered into to fence in our farming land, for the protection of our grain from the rav- ages of stock. It has been thought that the law-making power of this State will repeal the stock, or no fence law, and whether they will or not, it will be well to put a good and substantial fence around our contemplated crop, and not suffer ourselves to be annoyed as we were last year. Many times during the past year there were at night, often from five to perhaps 50 head of stock on our growing wheat, oats, etc. And this continued nearly, if not quite every night, till the grain was harvested, hauled in and stacked. The wonder is that we saved as much as we did. We aim to fence in, here at Manassa, 960 acres in one field, which is a section and a half, and hence two sides of the fence will each be one and a half miles in length, and the ends each a mile. At Ephraim they propose, I think, to enclose a section or 640 acres.

Old water ditches, which can be traced for miles, are a little east of Manassa. When, and by whom they were made, or what success in raising grain, etc., the people had who constructed them, I have not been informed. That a considera- ble number of years have elapsed since they were used for irrigating purposes, is apparent from the rabbit brush growing in and about them, for it seems to be as large and plentiful there as elsewhere.

Some of our people who went across the "Range" to work on the railroad, have returned. They say it is rather cold there as yet, and they prefer to wait for awhile at least till the winter breaks up and spring opens. It is also reported that the Indians are likely to be troublesome, as some depredations have already been committed by them, from reports. Work can soon be had here on a bridge across the Conejos River, at remunerative wages; and a few, I do not know how many, can be employed on a mill some of our brethren, are aim- ing to build. In fact, work has al- ready commenced on it. This mill, when completed, will be of great benefit to the people of Manassa and Ephraim.

News from the south is anything but flattering. More rain has fallen

for the past year than the oldest in- habitants ever recollect seeing. The winter has been very cold for that climate; rain, sleet and snow every few days, and thousands of pounds of cotton ungathered up to the mid- dle of February. The last news from Mississippi and Alabama, to relatives and friends here, is that they are having very high winds, blowing down timber, upsetting houses, etc.

Some are saying here, at least in affect: "My Lord delayeth His coming," as was said by some of old time; and they are beginning to smite their fellow servants by get- ting a spirit of opposition, and find- ing fault, etc. It is written judg- ment shall begin at the house of God, and this opposing element should beware, for while the judg- ments of God, in the form of rain, hail, snow, mildew and rot are being poured out upon the outside world, the best and most devout may look out.

The average temperature for the month of February has been, for sun rise, 16 4-21 degrees above zero. For the other seven days viz, from the 10th to the 16th, 9 1-7 below zero. At noon, the average was 41 2-11 de- grees above zero.

More anon, H. P. DOTSON.

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